

**CARNEYS POINT TOWNSHIP MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 2, 2012**

The Regular Meeting of the Township Committee was held on the above date at the time of 6:30 p.m. with Committeemen Newton, Racite, Dennis, Brown and Pelura present. Also present were M. Stout-CMFO/Administrator, J. Proffitt-Clerk, R. DiGregorio-Chief of Police, E. Gilbert-Public Works, J. Jordan-Solicitor.

Mayor Pelura called the meeting to order and read the **Open Public Meeting Act** and lead the **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**. Roll call was taken.

Mayor Pelura asked for a motion to approve the **minutes** from the special Committee meeting held on April 16, 2012 and the regular Committee meeting held on April 18, 2012. A motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Dr. Racite and all were in favor.

Under Applications: Mayor Pelura mentioned four **Park Permits #16, 17, 18 and 19** for various functions at the Rec. Complex. Motion was made by Dr. Racite, seconded by Mr. Dennis to approve all the various park applications and all were in favor. Mayor Pelura asked for a motion to approve a **Social Affairs Permit** for the Salem County Humane Society on November 10, 2012 at the Sakima Country Club. Motion was made by Mr. Dennis, seconded by Dr. Racite and all were in favor.

Resolutions:

**RESOLUTION 2012-86
CHAPTER 159**

Dr. Racite made a motion to approve the insertion of an item of revenue into the 2012 Budget, under the caption of NJ American Water Volunteer Fire Fighter Grant Program. The amount was \$1,000. Mr. Dennis seconded the motion. Mayor Pelura mentioned this grant was applied for by the Fire Chief. He did a good job on the application because we received the grant. A unanimous vote was taken.

**RESOLUTION 2012-87
AUTHORIZE A NEW BANK ACCOUNT**

Mr. Dennis made a motion to authorize opening a new bank account under Tri County Real Estate Redevelopment Escrow, seconded by Mr. Newton. Mayor Pelura mentioned the conflicted Committee members are also allow to vote. A unanimous vote was taken.

**RESOLUTION 2012-88
APPROVING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE BOND**

Motion was made by Dr. Racite, seconded by Mr. Dennis to authorize the performance bond at Cornerstone Estates be reduced by \$474,596.00. Mr. Brown questioned if this is a good idea. Mr. Jordan explained the Township Engineer oversees the project for completeness. As parts of the construction become finished the developer can apply to have their bond reduced. There is still money in the bond to finish the project. A unanimous vote was taken.

Under Correspondence: Mayor Pelura mentioned receiving a letter of resignation from Patricia Capasso Tax Collector. He said he last day will be Tuesday, May 8th. Mr. Brown asked if anyone had spoken to her. The Mayor said she had been spoken to. Motion was made by Dr. Racite to accept the letter of resignation, seconded by Mr. Dennis and all were in favor.

Mrs. Stout requested to be able to advertise for the position in the paper. Motion to allow for her to advertise was made by Mr. Newton, seconded by Mr. Dennis and all were in favor.

Under Old Business: Mr. Jordan mentioned receiving a letter from Joe DiNicola, Esquire about a mistake to the Township's Zoning Map. Mr. Jordan said part of the property of Carneys Point Metal has been put in rural residential. He said it was in light industrial. Mayor Pelura said this is part of their property which is enclosed in a fenced area of their business. Mr. Jordan said he can let both Mr. DiNicola and the Township Engineer know this needs to be corrected.

Mr. Brown gave a follow up on an issue which was brought to the Committee at the last meeting. He said a lady came before the Committee complaining of a barking dog and high grass on her street. Mr. Brown said he spoke to Dog Registrar Darlene Maxwell and the dog was not licensed. A letter is being sent out to the dog owner that she has to comply or go to court. Mr. Dennis said he went by the house and the grass was not that high at this time. So no action is being taken at this time.

Mr. Jordan mentioned receiving bid specifications a while ago for a vehicle lift. He has reviewed them and they are ready to go out for bid.

Under New Business: Mrs. Stout brought before the Committee a problem with street lighting for Fenwick Park. She said a letter was received with an amount of \$6,000 to be paid for street lighting from their association. Mrs. Stout said the letter was three months last and contained no utility bills to verify the amount. She feels this may be a three year bill they are trying to get paid. Each bill in the past has been around 2,000. She also mentioned there has been no money put into the current budget to pay this bill. Mr. Jordan said a letter can be sent to tell them the Township will not be paying this bill due to it being three months late and without proper backup. Mr. Dennis asked if we are sure we do not already pay for the street lighting through the utility company. Mrs. Stout said she would check. Motion was made by Mr. Brown, seconded by Mr. Newton to have the Solicitor send a letter to their Association in regards to what has been discussed.

Mrs. Stout said on April 4th a subcommittee met to discuss the Personnel Policy handbook. She said updates have been made and would like the Committee to review the handbook. She said any suggestions or changes that need to be made please let her know by May 11th.

Chief DiGregorio mentioned that Carneys Point Police Officer Sgt. Dale Fahr was honored in Trenton on April 24th for his efforts in keeping drunk drivers off the road. The Chief said he was the top DWI Enforcement Officer in Salem County last year with 20 arrests.

Mayor Pelura mentioned the Community Yard Sale held over the past weekend. He also mentioned Habit for Humanity being involved in this process. He mentioned 49 homes were involved in the yard sale and as always the Recreation Commission did a great job.

Public Participation: Martin Cleary of Broad St. asked if in the negotiations with Tri-County for the Redevelopment of 49 7th Ave. was it pre discussed for Mr. Bibeau to give the Township back \$200,000 dollars. Mr. Dennis said during negotiations he offered to reimburse the Township \$200,000.00 to go towards the builders remedy lawsuit. Mr. Martin said he feels it was not good for the Township to accept this money. It feels like Mr. Bibeau is buying the Township off. Mr. Dennis said he offered and we accepted.

Richard Gatanis of Pinewood Ave. asked if the talks are on again for Police merging with Penns Grove. Mayor Pelura said there have been no discussions with Penns Grove. The Mayor said he and Mr. Newton attended a presentation put on by the DCA on police mergers at the Second

Baptist Church in Pedricktown. Mayor Pelura said there were residents in the audience who were invited for a question and answer portion. Mayor Pelura said he feels that DCA is trying to help Penns Grove get off of the Transitional Aid they receive from the State. Mayor Pelura said it would be irresponsible not to at least listen. The Mayor repeated several times throughout the conversation that the Township Committee has the duty to look into any and all shared service proposals, no matter who proposes them or whatever they may be for. Mr. Gatanis said Carneys Point has Penns Groves Taxes and Public Works, which should be enough with the State. Mr. Gatanis said a merger of the departments was turned down by voters twice. Mr. Gatanis said Carneys Point officers do not want this merger; Penns Grove Officers do not want this merger, so why pursue. Mayor Pelura said to Mr. Gatanis "you should not clump all officers into your statement". Mr. Gatanis and Mayor Pelura had some verbal exchanges on this topic.

David Murphy of Elmwood Ave. asked how the Township collects late taxes. Mr. Pelura said the first step notices are sent out, the second step tax sale. Mr. Murphy asked if the Township can cut services such as police, ambulance, fire and or trash collection until they pay. Mr. Jordan said no. Mr. Murphy asked he spoke to the Tax Collector and "other" on the list in the news paper refers to the trash fee. For this fee can the Township stop collecting trash because they are not paying. This is not fair to the residents who pay. Mr. Murphy said the people who do not pay are stealing from everyone else. Mayor Pelura said that fee goes in to the current fund and if it is not paid a lien is placed on the property. Mayor Pelura mentioned the Township can foreclose on properties that do not pay. Mr. Jordan said it has been about five years since the last foreclosure. Old liens will have letters sent out and in the past about 40% will pay up to date. Mr. Murphy said he would like to see something done.

Dave Wright of S. Golfwood Ave. asked if a lot by Cornerstone Estates was deemed open space. He said it is starting to grow trees and looks bad. Mr. Jordan said he will have to look at the Planning Board resolution.

Mr. Gatanis said he does believe it has to be maintained because he was on the Planning Board at the time. Mr. Gatanis also apologized for his outburst earlier.

RESOLUTION 2012-89

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Brown motioned to convene into Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Racite and unanimous vote was taken. The regular meeting ended at 7:34 pm.

A motion was made by Mr. Dennis to reconvene in regular session, seconded by Dr. Racite and all was in favor. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:51 pm with the following action taken.

Dr. Racite made a motion to recommend the promotion of Gary DiPietro to Lieutenant at the next meeting; motion was seconded by Mr. Dennis. All were in favor except Mr. Brown.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Dennis to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Newton. Motion passed with five affirmative votes. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Approved: 5-16-12


June Proffitt, Municipal Clerk